

Remarks

The present application is a continuation application under 35 U.S.C. §1.53(b) of U.S. Serial No. 09/018,603, filed February 4, 1998, for which a Notice of Allowance was mailed on October 4, 1999. Claims 2-21 of the prior application are canceled in the request for filing a continuation application included herewith. The present Preliminary Amendment requests cancellation of remaining claim 1 and submits new claims 22-45, numbered sequentially beginning with the next highest number after the highest numbered claim of the parent application. Support for new claims 22-45 is found in the specification. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Summary

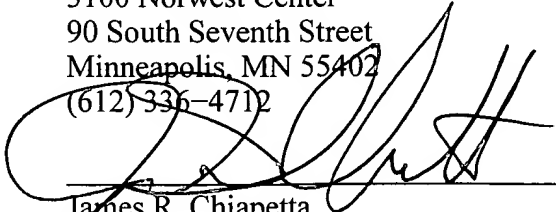
It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims (claims 22-45) are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number, if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted,

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DATE: 11/12/99



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